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April 12, 2006

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We now go to the next agenda item, motion. Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hudkins, as Chair of the Rules Committee, reports on a proposed rules change regarding Rule 3, Sections 3 and 6. The rules change that is being offered is found on page 1034 of the Legislative Journal.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hudkins, as Chairperson, you're recognized to open on your motion.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. As our Clerk said, the motion that we're attempting to change, again, is found on page 1034 if you want to refer to that. As you may remember, at the beginning of the session, the Retirement Committee requested that the standing committee structure and meeting times be reviewed, so that the Retirement Committee would have a designated day for their meetings. There was also discussion and a request to change certain membership numbers on some of the committees. At that time, the rule provided that the Retirement Committee met at the call of the Chair, and would meet during the noonhour. The Rules Committee met, and at that hearing Senator Schrock indicated that the Natural Resources Committee might be able to accommodate the Retirement System by cutting back to two days a week, so long as the two days were Wednesday and Thursday. The Rules Committee accepted Senator Schrock's proposal, and recommended a rules change to the full Legislature for consideration. As you know, the Rules Committee does not determine the days that the committees meet, nor the number of days that a committee has for its hearings during the week. Prior to the adoption of permanent rules for this year, that was left up to the Committee on Committees. When we adopted the permanent rules for the session, we amended the rule to also require approval of the Executive Board for setting committee structure and meeting times. In early March, the Committee on Committees met to work out the committee structure to accommodate the concept of giving Retirement one of the days from Natural Resources. It was recognized early on that if Natural Resources kept two out of the three days, then the membership on Natural Resources would need to be the membership on Retirement. The Committee on